

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, AREA B,  
BUILDING 71B, POWER PLANT LABORATORY  
DAYTON VIC.  
GREENE COUNTY  
OHIO

HAER No. OH-79-AZ

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, AREA B,  
BUILDING 71B, POWER PLANT LABORATORY

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Location: Along 7th Street between D and G Streets;  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Area B,  
Dayton Vicinity, Greene County, Ohio.

Dates of Construction: 1943.

Present Owner: USAF.

Present Use: Aero Propulsion and Power Directorate,  
Aircraft Fire Protection.

Significance: Building 71B is part of the Power Plant  
Laboratory Complex, the site of essential  
aircraft engine research and development,  
particularly during the 1930s and '40s. It was  
built due to the increased research demands of  
World War II.

Project History: This report is part of the overall Wright-  
Patterson Air Force Base, Area B documentation  
project conducted by HAER 1991-1993. See  
overview report, HAER No. OH-79, for a  
complete description of the project.

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DESCRIPTION: Building 71B is a four-story, cast-in-place concrete building with steel-sashed windows and vertically opening hangar doors.

HISTORY: Building 71B was built in 1943 to accommodate the expanded wartime testing missions of the Power Plant Laboratory, with four test stands labelled G, H, I and J. G stand was the last operable reciprocating engine stand; between 1961 and 1963 its north end was used by the Aero Medical Research Laboratory to conduct human drop test experiments. In the 1970s it was modified to house the Compressor Research Facilities Control and Computer Facility. In 1964 I stand was gutted and a 120", 30,000 psi hypersonic shock tunnel was installed as a part of RAMJET research. Today Building 71B is occupied by the Aero Propulsion and Power Directorate, Aircraft Fire Protection.

Building 71C, the Outdoor Engine Test Stands, was built in 1952 and situated in a wooded area about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile south of Building 71. Known as "the rabbit patch" due to its location, the structure

For bibliography, see Wright-Patterson Air Force Base overview report (HAER No. OH-79).